

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Michael V. CONANT et al.

Serial No.:

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: February 14, 2001

Art Unit: Unknown

For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONIC NEGOTIATION OF  
DOCUMENT CONTENT

---

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in  
connection with the above-identified application.

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please insert the following Abstract:

--A method and apparatus provide for the negotiation of the content of a document via an electronic exchange. In one example an electronic exchange operates as a repository of forms of contracts. A user can initiate a negotiation process by selecting a form contract and, if desired, customizing the contract to a particular transaction. The user can then advise a third party as to the existence of the contract on the exchange. The parties can then conduct a negotiation of

contract terms on the exchange in accordance with permissions prescribed by the exchange and/or the user.--.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 remain pending in the present application.

The above amendment to the specification has been made to insert an appropriate Abstract of the Disclosure which was inadvertently omitted.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above-identified application, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

COOLEY GODWARD LLP

Dated: February 14, 2001

By: 

Frank Pietrantonio  
Reg. No. 32,289

Cooley Godward LLP  
Attn: Patent Group  
One Freedom Square  
Reston Town Center  
11951 Freedom Drive  
Reston, VA 20190-5601  
Tel: (703) 456-8000  
Fax: (703) 456-8100